

Wetlands

Wetlands are very important in evaluating alternatives. Wetlands are lands where saturation with water is the dominant factor in determining the nature of soil development and the types of plant and animal communities living in the soil and on its surface. The Wetlands Memorandum of Agreement Section 404 of the Clean Water Act of 1977 gives guidance on this environmental factor. The primary goal of the memorandum is to achieve no net loss of wetlands. Also, no disruption of wetlands is permitted, if there is a practical and feasible alternative that would have less adverse impact on the area. In addition, compensatory mitigation is required if wetlands are impacted.

The Whiteville/Brunswick Urban Area is bounded on the east side by the enormous White Marsh Swamp. White Marsh is identified as a Priority area with the State. Therefore any land use growth is on the west side of the urban area. White Marsh Swamp is not the only wetland in the urban area. Pine Log Swamp and Soules Swamp lie to the west of the Health Center Road (SR 1439) and south of Main Street, respectively. These are mini swamps compared to the size of White Marsh. Only one new thoroughfare plan improvement impact one of the swamps, the US 701 widening. This widening will impact Soules Swamp.

Wildlife and Vegetation

In this rural urban area there is an abundance of wildlife and vegetation. However there is only one listed with the Endangered and Threatened Plants and Animals of North Carolina, the Alligator *Mississippiensis*, alligator. There is also a list of rare plants and animals. One animal included is the *Procambarus Ancyclus*, a crayfish. The plants included are the *Dionaea Muscipula*, venus flytrap; *Peltandra Sagittifolia*, spoonfloor; *Carex Crux-Corvi*, crowfoot sedge; *Cheilolejeunea Rigidula*, A Liverwort; *Lopholejeunea Muelleriana*, A Liverwort; and *Epidendrum Conopseum*, orchid. No thoroughfare plan improvements impact any of the above.

Housing and Neighborhoods

The preservation of pleasant cohesive neighborhoods is a fundamental criteria of thoroughfare planning and an important goal for the Whiteville/Brunswick Urban Area. By designating certain streets as thoroughfares, heavy traffic is kept off neighborhood streets, and the negative impacts of traffic are segregated as much as possible from residential environment. Maintaining these conditions, as population and travel grows, requires improvements to the thoroughfare system. The one-way pair system with Madison Street and Franklin would have been designed to do just that if it was not deleted from the Plan. It would have reduced traffic on the residential streets with little disruption to existing neighborhoods. Much of the proposed construction from the Thoroughfare Plan is outside the developed urban area.

Educational Facilities

The urban area's school system is unique. All four public schools plus a private school are located inside the urban area. This factor promotes much parental and community interest and involvement in educating the children.